

# Cohasset Mariner

The Mariner (and supplements) is a paid circulation newspaper published every Thursday at 541 Plain St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 for and about the residents of Cohasset. Telephone 545-3950 or 837-3500. Mailing address: Box 71, Cohasset, Mass. 02050. Second class postage paid at Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

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As The Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs [black and white glossy] are also welcome.

Subscription rates: in-town \$8 for one year and \$14 for two years; out-of-town \$10 for one year and \$8 for nine months.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Box 682, Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

[USPS455-390]

## Editorial

### Monitoring Power

This is a questionnaire regarding the ability of society to conduct and regulate itself in the common interest.

The troublesome word is power, which threads its way throughout life and particularly makes itself evident in the hands of the public official. Or does it?

What person(s) singlehandedly controls state/federal or local government? Who at any given moment has the power at **The Boston Globe, The New York Times, The Patriot Ledger or The Mariner**?

When we elect our public officials or employ municipal employees to what extent do we have the right to monitor their private lives, to examine their personal investments? Can there be such a thing as management apart from the situation it tries to manage?

Rep. Mary Jeanette Murray (R-Cohasset) is presently contacting local officials with regard to their opinion about a proposed financial disclosure bill for municipal officials and employees.

Rep. Murray, although she voted in favor of financial disclosure as it pertains to legislators, said she is against a similar measure for local officials.

"Ed King has had his problems with appointees who refuse to be named to posts. They don't wish to disclose their finances; they feel it's an invasion of privacy."

Rep. Murray added that the average taxpayer "feels it's ridiculous. Who would review the information? — newspapers, TV, anyone who has a gripe against certain legislators. A man's life could be tarred for life."

So far Rep. Murray has received six verbal responses (all antidisclosure) from four members of the Cohasset School Committee, one member on the Cohasset Board of Health, and a member of the Hull Board of Assessors.

Over the next several months she will be soliciting responses from the community at large in anticipation of the bill which is expected to come up for vote sometime in 1980.

While there are no trappings attached to the proposed bill at this stage, Rep. Murray feels it will basically mirror the legislators' own disclosure law with respect to income, mortgage, taxes, investments.

We are interested in how you feel about the matter. Please clip the bottom half of this editorial and return it to **The Cohasset Mariner**, Box 71, Cohasset, 02050. Or drop your response off at The Colonial Pharmacy. We'd like to receive your responses by October 5.

Please Circle:

(Use additional paper for longer responses)

1. I am an (A) elected public official (B) appointed public official (C) resident (D) municipal employee (E) former public official/municipal employee.

2. I am (A) in favor (B) not in favor of financial disclosure as it pertains to local public officials and municipal employees.

(If your answer to question 2 was (A), please answer the following questions):

Comment regarding range, titles and description of elected and appointed positions which should be subject to financial disclosure requirements of some type.

## Eyes Right

## Trolling With Ellis

By Chet Ellis

One of the most picturesque and popular spots in Cohasset may be in for some official scrutiny and action before next summer arrives.

The Mill River bridge, long a favorite spot for a few Cohasset youths to do their imitation of the ol' swimming hole routine is beginning to attract large numbers of young people from surrounding towns. They have come from as far away as Randolph and Milton.

Selectman Arthur Clark admits that, in the past, the town has always tolerated this activity as long as the participants were local kids and the numbers were few, but now "the word has gotten out" and the hordes have arrived.

Residents driving to Government Island on a warm day in July or August will have to face a street full of bathing-suited teenagers engaged in a sport known as "Bridge Jumping." Also, as sometimes happens with large groups, the mood can turn ugly when motorists, attempting to get through, voice their objections to the congestion.

Cohasset police periodically clear out the area, but within minutes of their departure, the amateur John Weissmullers are back doing their jackknives and back flips off the bridge abutments. Lt.



Charles Stockbridge, a famous bridge jumper of past decades, maintains that the only way the congestion can be curtailed is to station an officer at the bridge on a full-time basis, which, we agree, is not practical.

I wonder if a Troll would take the job?

Officials are in a quandary as to what to do to relieve the situation. Selectmen have considered solutions such as rebuilding to "unclimbable heights" the bridge abutments or construction so a chain link fence above the existing abutments and continuing along the sides.

Neither solution seems acceptable in the opinion of many local bridge artists and sportsmen. Jim Gallagher, a local angler of note, has been singing "Don't Fence Me In" to anyone who will listen since the bridge is his spot to grab a hungry bass during a tidal change through the Mill River rapids.

Although no one yet has been seriously injured as a result of jumping off the bridge or a traffic accident, Selectman Rocky Laugelle

feels something must be done before the situation gets worse.

Apparently he has received a large number of complaints from area residents and local concerned citizens. "An article in next year's town meeting warrant is a possibility," says Laugelle. When asked if he had ever done any bridge jumping as a kid, Rocky quickly changed the subject.

Seriously, we agree that congestion on the Mill River bridge is fast reaching the point where something should be done. Add up the effects of Hugo's parking, white water canoeists, traffic to Government Island, and bridge jumpers and you have a disaster waiting to happen.

Perhaps an open hearing could be held by Selectmen where suggestions from all sides can be aired to develop an acceptable or at least a compromise approach for a future town meeting article. Or, on the other hand, if we could just find that Troll...

(Mr. Ellis is a resident of Tower Lane. ED.)

## Around Town Hall

### SCHOOL BUSES

School officials are still monitoring the busing situation, and adjustments will be made. At a recent meeting, School Committeewoman Patricia Walsh said she had received several complaints from parents regarding the congestion of buses. John Creamer, principal of Osgood School, said some buses were leaving school as late as 2:55 p.m.

### MEETING DATE SET

Selectmen officially called for a special town meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. October 22, at the high school as a result of having received a 200 signature petition asking that the town pay police and fire contracts.

Once approved, the contracts will be retroactive to July 1, 1979. The total increase for the police department is \$20,920 including first and second step increases of five percent and a maximum step of 6.13 per cent. The firefighters' contract is for \$27,578 (\$23,691 for salaries and \$3,887 for expenses). That money represents a five per cent increase for regular firefighters.

### WARRANT CLOSES WED.

Selectmen will close the warrant for the October 22 special town meeting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 19. However, a late filing provision will be made for the water and sewer commission which may propose articles for a new sewage treatment plant or expanded facilities.



### SELECTMEN ARTICLES

On a motion by Selectman Rocco Laugelle, selectmen unanimously voted to include an article on the October 22 annual town meeting warrant which would retain the water and sewer commissioners in their present capacity, and not split the commission into two

## Moving Tale

Sadly, we have just moved from Cohasset (we were transferred) and we would like one subscription to be sent to us in Connecticut, and the other subscription to our son, who left last week for a position with a company building a military base in Saudi Arabia.

separate boards.

Additional articles to be placed on the warrant are as follows: an unpaid bill of \$400 for legal stenographers on the Kuhn case; a \$900 increase in salary for the building inspector whose position has been reclassified by the personnel board. The reclassification would put the building inspector at \$15,514 maximum.

Also, an article to appropriate \$2,500 to repair the flood gate at Straits Pond, and an article to repair the heating system at police headquarters.

Tod is a graduate of Cohasset High School and Fairfield University '79.

Looking forward to reading "the Mariner" again. As they say, there may not be much to see in a small town but what you hear makes up for it.

Sincerely,  
Joan M. MacKenize

## From Left

Comment on type and nature of associations and interests — financial or otherwise — that you feel should be reported.

Comment on focus of responsibility for administering and enforcing disclosure requirements.

Comment on the sanctions which you feel should be applied for non-compliance.

3. If you are not in favor of financial disclosure for local officials please state your reasons why you are not.

Thank you